

**REMARKS**

Claim 1 has been amended to recite, “wherein the zirconia sintered body contains  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  and an amount of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  in the zirconia sintered body is about 0.5% by weight or less....”

Support for this recitation can be found at page 5, lines 6-8 of the present specification.

Claim 10 has been canceled.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-7 and 11-13 are pending in the application.

The Examiner has objected to claims 1 and 5 based on the following informalities:

In claim 1, line 1, in the recitation “the zirconia sintered body,” “the” should be “A.”

In claim 1, “CeO” should be  $\text{CeO}_2$ ” (as in original claim 9).

In claim 5, line 2, “pm” should be “ $\mu\text{m}$ .”

Applicants have corrected these typographical errors. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Tsukuma et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,744,041 (“Tsukuma”).

The Examiner asserts that the stabilized zirconia ceramics disclosed in Tsukuma disclose the zirconia sintered body of the claimed invention based on the disclosure in Tables 4 and 9 in Tsukuma.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner’s assertion.

Applicants submit that each of the stabilized zirconia ceramics referred to by the Examiner have an amount of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  of 20 wt% as illustrated below.

Y <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> /ZrO <sub>2</sub> molar ratio	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> (wt%)	Average Grain Size (μm)	
2/98	20	0.1	Col's 13-14 Table 4, Fourth Example
2/98	20	0.2	Col's 13-14 Table 4, Fifth Example
2/98	20	0.2	Col's 15-16 Table 6, First Example
2/98	20	0.1	Col's 17-18 Table 9, Fifth Example
2/98	20	0.2	Col's 17-18 Table 9, Sixth Example
2/98	20	0.2	Col's 17-18 Table 9, Seventh Example
2/98	20	0.2	Col's 17-18 Table 9, Eighth Example

In view of the Table provided above, it is clear that Tsukuma does not anticipate the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

Withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of claims 1-7 and 11-13 is earnestly solicited.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Appln. No.: 10/785,084  
Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

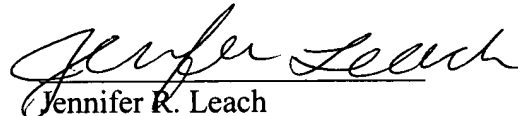
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WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

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